



**Mansfield Middle School Association**  
**February 9, 2012**  
**Minutes**

*The meeting was called to order at 7.10.*

***Those in attendance:***

Allison Altieri, Diane Briody, Fred Baruzzi, Terry Cook, Jeff Cryan, Sheryl Lambert, Sally Milius, Candace Morell, Doug Perkins, Jeannette Picard, Madeleine Priest, Cathie Salai

President Diane Briody brought the meeting to order and members introduced each other. Members were welcomed and guests were introduced.

***Special Guests***

*-Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge* – Madeline Priest and Kevin Donahue of the Clear Energy Corps spoke as part of an effort to engage Mansfield residents in this program designed to reduce energy consumption. Funded by a grant from the Department of Energy, the challenge helps reduce home energy costs and offers home energy audits, providing simple improvements like the installation of insulation. Sally Milius, MMS parent, volunteers as part of the Energy Education Team. The group has met with our enrichment teacher and is planning an energy challenge in April for Earth Day. This could include activities like a student pledge and various classroom activities.

Residents are encouraged to sign-up for the program as it benefits our town. Energy stamps gained through resident participation can be redeemed for LED light bulbs for municipal buildings, and overnight field trip at the Ct Science Center, etc.

To find out more about the program go to [www.CTEnergyChallenge.com](http://www.CTEnergyChallenge.com) or contact Kevin directly at [kdonahue@ctenergychallenge.com](mailto:kdonahue@ctenergychallenge.com)

*-Fred Baruzzi, Superintendent* – Fred Baruzzi was available to answer questions regarding the principal search for MMS. The search committee will be comprised of MMS faculty/staff members (1/2 of group), Board of Ed members (1/4), and MMSA members/parents (1/4). The school administration hopes to have a candidate by mid-May.

***Reports***

*President:* Diane Briody reported that she and Jeannette Picard attended the February Board of Education meeting to represent the MMSA. Board members thanked MMSA members for their hard work on behalf of the teachers and students of Mansfield Middle School. Diane also noted that Fred Baruzzi is looking for members interested in participating on the principal search committee. On behalf of executive board members, Diane asked that anyone wishing to send a message out through Q-Notify under the umbrella of the MMSA get approval from an officer.

*Vice-President:* Allison Altieri noted that the newsletter is being prepared for inclusion with the progress reports to be distributed at the beginning of March. Dates for subsequent newsletters will be around April 4<sup>th</sup> and May 10<sup>th</sup>.

*Treasurer:* Megan Meikle was not able to attend the meeting. No formal treasurer's report was submitted. However, Jeff Cryan noted that \$900 is left over from last year. Kim Raggi will write a check to be sent back to the MMSA treasury.

*Secretary:* Jeannette Picard reviewed the minutes for our last meeting. The secretary's report was accepted unanimously with one revision. Jeannette also shared Action Plan forms she had prepared for the various committees. The forms were accepted and will be put up on the MMSA website, where they will be easily available to all members. Diane Briody will look for the latest version of the MMSA Constitution. Jeannette will type that up for inclusion on the website, as well. Jeannette will also prepare nominating forms to be distributed at the beginning of April with report cards. Jeannette shared a letter from the support services team, thanking the MMSA for the grant to purchase "Read Live" books.

*Administrative:* Jeff Cryan reported on a number of items:

- Retirements/leave at the end of the school year will include:
  - Jeff Cryan, Principal
  - Liz Werkowski – Family & Consumer Science
  - Carol Sweet – Mathematics, on leave
  - Sophia Donforth – Taking a new teaching position in Vermont
- No snow days have accrued so far this winter
- Circle Traffic – Some parents have expressed concern about traffic and student safety at the parent pickup area. A suggestion has been made for “Burma Shave” type signs to be posted on the driveway hill with messages about safe driving. (Note: signs have been posted along the right side of the driveway entering the school)
- Student Behavior – An increased presence in public spaces has affected student behavior, most recently with You Tube involved. A fight reported to parents was planned and staged for posting on the site. Jeff noted that there are “significant consequences for this type of behavior.” Follow-up activities have taken place in Advisor/advisee groups. Students discussed plans for action in such situations. The “green dot/red dot” scenario was used, to help students determine their responses to promote a safe community. They will also be showing a video entitled “Bystander Event”, which studied student reactions to provide help when initially a bystander to an event. The term “upstander”, one who takes action to promote safety and positive behavior, was introduced to the students.
- Upcoming Events:
  - Pep Rally – 2/17
  - History Day – 3/1 –local, 3/24 –regional
  - Cabaret/Talent Show – 4/26
  - Chinese Exchange – late April/early May

*Faculty Representative:* Doug Perkins reported on a number of activities:

- One School/One Read – OSOR will be held for three weeks in March from 3/5-3/23, during the CMT administration period. Students will participate in cross grade groups to read a title together.
- CT Invention Convention – Four students will be representing MMS at the Invention Convention in April.
- VEX Robotics Tournament – The MMS Robotics Team will be hosting an all New England Robotics Tournament this month, with 7-8 teams participating. At most tournaments, the majority of participants are high school teams, but those involved are encouraging more middle schools to get involved. One MMS team has qualified to go to the World Championships in Anaheim, Texas. Students are fundraising now to determine if the trip is feasible. Tournament concessions should help with this cause. The group has received a \$2500 grant from NASA to continue work over the summer (2012). The team will be opened up to new participants in the spring.
- Faculty members are working to add a greenhouse to the back of the boiler building, which already provides a source of waste heat. A parent suggestion was made to look into the Farm to School program and the Chef to School program for funding resources.
- Salad Bar Program – The Fuel Up to Play 60 program, sponsored by the NFL promotes healthy eating and exercise. Terry Cook noted that there are grants available to expand the program and provide salad bar equipment.

*Other Business*

- Fundraising- Members of the fundraising committee were unable to attend the meeting.

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:24*

*Respectfully submitted,*

Jeannette Picard

Secretary (pending approval at our next meeting)

*Our next meeting will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup>.*